



# **Proposed Change to Assess Grade 5 Students in Science**

**New Jersey Department of Education**

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**Presentation before the New Jersey State Board of Education**

**November 1, 2017**



# Agenda for Today's Presentation

- 1 Why we're proposing a change to grade 5**
- 2 What implementation will look like in 2017-18**
- 3 How the NJDOE will support districts**



# Why Assessing in Grade 5 Benefits Students

## Thoughtful Transition to New Science Standards & Assessments

- In **2014, New Jersey adopted new standards**, which we now call the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science (NJSLS-S). Timeline for district implementation:
  - Grades 6-12 by 2016-17; Grades K-5 by 2017-18.
- Developed **collaboratively with stakeholders** in science, science education, higher education, and industry.
- The NJDOE has **supported districts during the transition**:
  - developed curriculum frameworks;
  - conducted numerous trainings;
  - provided one-on-one assistance; and
  - created parent friendly resources.
- As it has always done when changing standards, the NJDOE did an assessment audit.
- In spring 2018, New Jersey will be administering a **field test** of the new assessments, named the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment – Science.
- The spring 2019 administration is expected to be a **baseline year** of the new assessments, and it will reflect feedback gathered in the spring 2018 field test.



# Why Assessing in Grade 5 Benefits Students

## Necessary Assessment Alignment to the Standards

- The new science standards have **different standards progressions** that build upon each other and culminate with the **natural opportunity to assess students** comprehensively at the end of grade 5 because the elementary science standards (K-5) are specific to each grade level.
- **Science educators support shifting the assessment** to grade 5, as it aligns to the progression of the elementary science standards.
- **Many other states**, such as Maryland, Illinois, Delaware and California, have adopted the same science standards New Jersey has and assess in grade 5.
- The NJDOE recommends the **New Jersey Administrative Code change from grade 4 to grade 5** because testing in grade 4 would be misaligned to the standards and omit the grade 5 standards.
- Testing in grade 5 would also ensure students have the opportunity to demonstrate their **knowledge of the entire elementary science standards**.



# Implementing the New Science Assessment

## Continuing the Thoughtful Transition with District Support

- As mentioned, there is a **two-year transition** to the new science assessments:
  - 2018 will be a **field test** (results will **not adversely impact a district's NJQSAC review**).
  - 2019 will be a **baseline year**.
- The NJDOE will be supporting districts by providing:
  - 2018 field test administration guidance **for grade 8, high school** (typically in grade 11), **and grade 5** (pending adoption by the State Board of Education).
  - Information on testing window and testing unit times, and technical and infrastructure guidance.
  - Resources (e.g. sample test questions).
  - Opportunities to **participate in test development**.
  - Conducting **trainings in the winter and spring** for test administrators, and with information for English Language Learners (ELLs) and special education students.
- Following the field test in spring 2018, the NJDOE will be **seeking feedback from districts and science educators** to inform future administrations of the assessments.